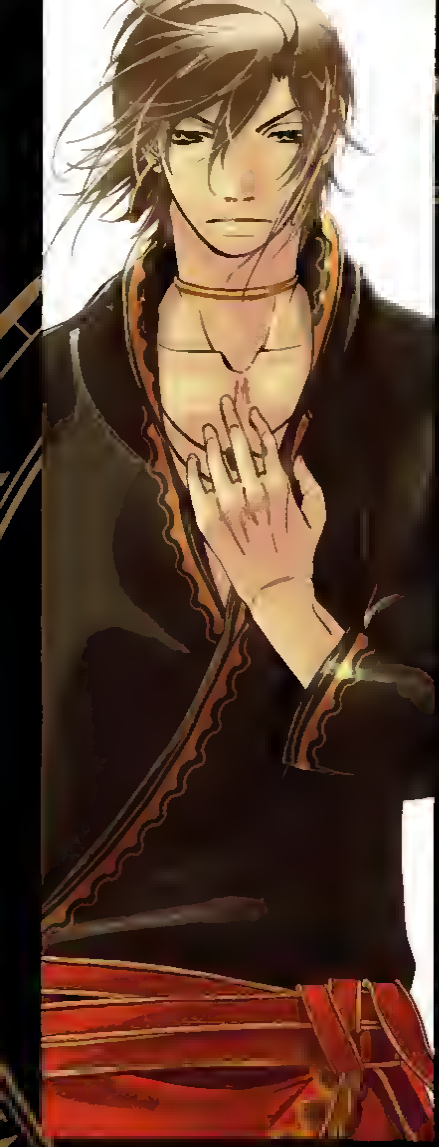
MISSY COMICS

3

12時の権力者



さぎり和紗

WasaSagiri Presents

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER (3)

さぎり和紗
WasaSagiri Presents

ISHARA DI MISSMAR SAIE

HIGH PRIEST OF THE ORCHIS FAITH, ISAISM. BELIEVES ELEVEN AND TWELVE'S MOTHER, THAMANYA, WAS ASSASSINATED AND IS SEARCHING FOR THE CULPRIT.

SILVIE

THE SON OF THE CHIEF OF THE NAJM, THE MOST POWERFUL TRIBE AMONG THE BEDOUIN. HAS BEEN GIVEN ORDERS TO FIND AND ABDUCT "EMIR," THEIR TRUE KING, BY THE ANTI-ROYALIST GROUP "MUZAHALLA."

SAKURA SANA SHAMS

DAUGHTER OF THE CHIEF OF THE SHAMS, WHO HOLD THE POWER TO SEE THE FUTURE. SILVIE'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND, BUT TWELVE'S BRIDE-TO-BE.

EIGHT MAR SARG ORCHIS

THE 8TH PRINCE. COMMANDER OF THE OCHIS MILITARY PATROL BATTALION, ISRAFEL. HOLDS AFFECTION FOR SAKURA.

YUAN FANG LONG

HAS DREAMED OF MARRYING TWELVE SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD. THE DAUGHTER OF THE FANG LONG PIRATE CLAN LEADER. HER NICKNAME IS "THE PEARL PRINCESS OF THE DING XIANG." BUSINESS RIVALS OF LUTEEN.

LUTEEN PAI LONG

SALIM'S NEWLY-APPOINTED CONSUL. HIS OTHER FACE IS THAT OF THE HEAD OF THE PAI LONG PIRATE CLAN. HIS PIRATE NICKNAME IS "THE BALD EAGLE OF CAPE RADIZAN."

THE STORY SO FAR

THE VAST DESERT EMPIRE OF ORCHIS. KOYUKI, A GIRL WHO LIVES IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF SALIM'S PORT, WAS TROUBLED BY THE CONSUL'S ADVANCES UNTIL THE TWIN PRINCES OF THE EMPIRE SAVED HER.

THE PRINCES BEGIN TO INVITE HER TO THE PALACE, AND AS SHE GROWS CLOSER TO THEM, SHE BEGINS TO LEARN MANY TRUTHS ABOUT THE EMPIRE, STARTING WITH ITS BIRTH MYTHS AND THE EXISTENCE OF ANTI-ROYALISTS.

DURING A BEDOUIN CONFERENCE, THE ANTI-ROYALIST SILVIE APPEARS BEFORE PRINCE TWELVE! AND MISSMAR INVESTIGATES THE MYSTERY OF THE QUEEN'S DEATH! THE DAY OF THE "RITE OF SUCCESSION," IN WHICH TWELVE WILL TAKE THE THRONE GROWS CLOSER, BUT THE TRUTH IS BECOMING HARD TO IGNORE!

CAST

A 16 YEAR-OLD WHO WORKS AT A TAVERN IN THE PORT OF SALIM. ORPHANED WHEN HER PARENTS WERE KILLED BY IMPERIAL TROOPS IN AN UPRISING. LIKES TWELVE FOR SAVING HER WHEN SHE WAS IN TROUBLE.
KOYUKI SAKAGAMI
THE 11TH PRINCE AND TWELVE'S TWIN BROTHER. FATED TO BE THE DEMON "IBLIS" FROM THE ORCHIS ORIGIN MYTH. ALREADY A MONK OF ISAISM. DOTES ON TWELVE
ELEVEN RAMAD KHAN ORCHIS
THE 12TH PRINCE AND SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE THRONE. ELEVEN'S YOUNGER TWIN. AFTER UNDERGOING THE RITE OF SUCCESSION, HE WILL BECOME THE NEXT EMPEROR OF ORCHIS. HAS LOST ALL MEMORIES OF HIS CHILDHOOD.
TWELVE HEALD KHAN ORCHIS

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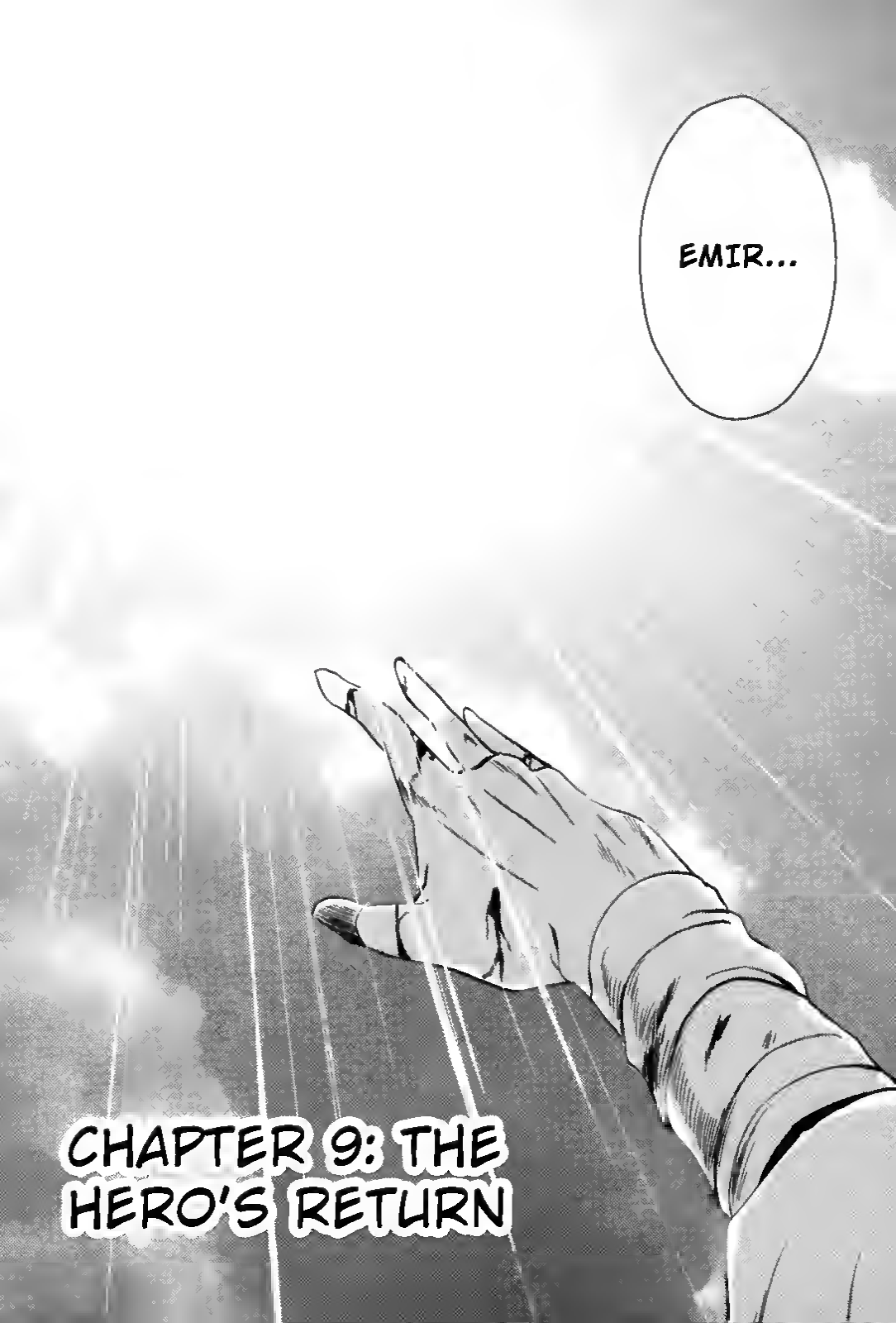
FWOOM
PLEASE STOP!
FOR-GIVE US!
NOOO !!
I BEG YOU! PLEASE FORGIVE US!
TIME IS SHORT. BURN THE BOOKS, HOUSE AND ALL.

COUGH! COUGH!
STO-
GUH !!
FATHER!
WHAP
STAY BACK, SON!
THUNK
TOSS IT INTO THE FLAMES.
FALSE HISTORY CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO REACH THE EARS OF THE NEXT GENERATION.
GO TO HELL.
WHAT?

YOU'RE THE ONES WHO FALSIFIED HISTORY.
ISAIST SCUM!
IT'S NOTHING BUT A SHOW! YOU WILL NEVER BRING HAPPINESS TO ANYONE!
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
FWIP
MY STEEL WILL TEACH YOU THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS.
!!
SCHK

FATHER !!
NOCHTA... LIVE, MY SON.
AND NEVER LOSE HOPE.
FOR THE FUTURE OF THE BEDOUIN... AND MY SON...
ONE DAY, HE WILL RETURN... AND ONCE AGAIN BRING JOY TO THIS LAND...
O HERO OF OLD...
RECREATE THE MIRACLE OF ORCHIS...

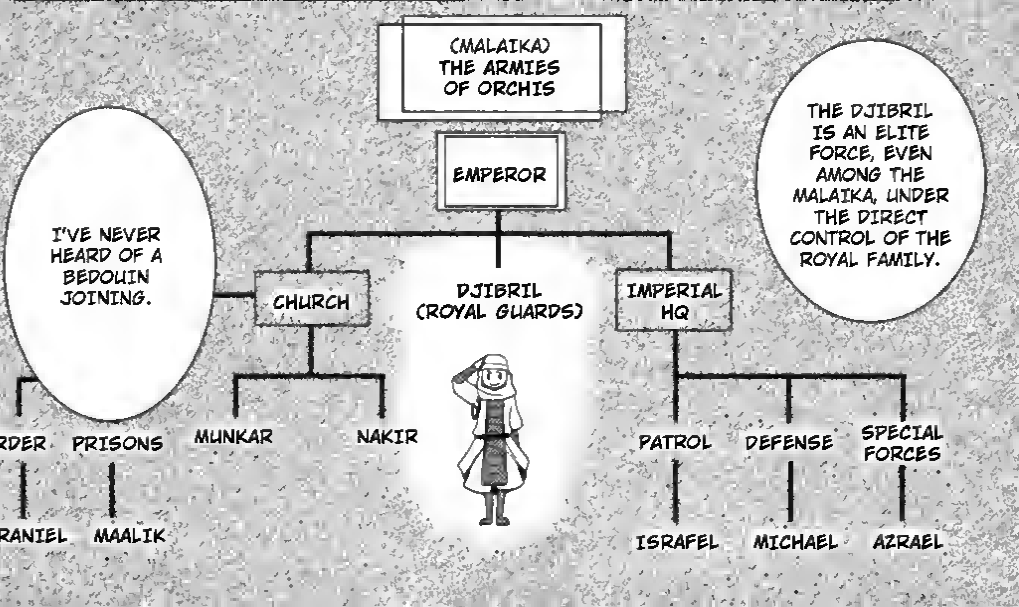

EMIR...
CHAPTER 9: THE HERO'S RETURN

COME ON! FASTER! I SAID FASTER!
GALLOP
CRACK
GALLOP
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE DRIVING HIM A LITTLE HARD, BICORN?!
SHUT UP!
HUH ?!
NEIGH!
UWHOO-OAAA?!
PLOP
OW!
NOW THAT WAS A NICE FALL!
ARE YOU BAD WITH HORSES, NAGI?

PRINCE TWELVE!
...MAN, WHAT A SIGHT.
YOU BEDOUIN DON'T MESS AROUND.
YOU REALLY LOOK THE PART.
THAT'S ONE WEIRD PRINCE YOU FOUND,
RUNNING WITH US BEDOUIN...
SHUT UP!
EXCEPT FOR THIS GUY
HEY, YOU GUYS.
ISN'T HE?

HUH?
YOU WANNA JOIN MY "DJIBRIL"?

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!
I'M IN! I AM SO IN!!
WHAT?! FOR REAL?!
HOW ABOUT A STARTING SALARY OF ONE MILLION COLGAS, WITH BONUSES AND ROOM FOR ADVANCEMENT?


(MALAIKA) THE ARMIES OF ORCHIS
EMPEROR
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A BEDOUIN JOINING.
THE DJIBRIL IS AN ELITE FORCE, EVEN AMONG THE MALAIKA, UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.
CHURCH
DJIBRIL (ROYAL GUARDS)
IMPERIAL HQ
ORDER
PRISONS
MUNKAR
NAKIR
PATROL
DEFENSE
SPECIAL FORCES
HADRANIEL
MAALIK
ISRAFEL
MICHAEL
AZRAEL

THAT IS NOT QUITE THE CASE.
ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 32, CLAUSE 58 OF THE IMPERIAL MAGNA CARTA...
THERE ARE NO TRIBAL RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON ENTRY INTO DJIBRIL.
...OR SO IT SAYS.
IN FACT, ACCORDING TO THIS HISTORICAL RECORD..
AT THE DAWN OF THE EMPIRE, DJIBRIL WAS MADE UP ALMOST ENTIRELY OF BEDOUIN.
..THE IMPERIAL MAGNA CARTA .

THERE'S STILL INFORMATION LEFT ABOUT THE IMPERIAL ARMY AT THE TIME OF THE EMPIRE'S RISE?
YES. THOUGH I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE RATHER DIFFICULT FOR SOMEONE UNEDUCATED TO LOCATE.
SHIT!
JUST WHAT WE NEED, SOME NERDY BRAT WHO'S WAY TOO INTO HISTORY!
NOCHTA THE ZELZAL, WAS IT?
I HATE THIS GUY. HE'S ALWAYS TRYING TO SHOW OFF HOW SMART HE IS.
I FORGOT I WAS PREACHING TO THE CHOIR.
PARDON ME.
SHNK

HOWL
?!
SHNK
BI-CORN, YOU ASS-HOLE!
YOU IDIOT!
THAT'S A CLIFF!
AH!
MY BOOK !!
WAIT! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
WAIT!
SCHK

SILVIE!
YES, SIR!
TROMP
TROMP
YOU MUSTN'T, PRINCE!
PRINCE!
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
AH!
KH!
SCREECH

PRINCE!
SNATCH
GRAB
I'M GONNA FALL!
PRINCE!
TWELVE!
WHUMP
BICORN ?!
ARE YOU INJURED, PRINCE?!
HNGH!!
I JUST SCRAPED MY ARM A LITTLE.

HERE.
SNATCH
THANKS, NAGI.
THANKS.
YOU REALLY SAVED MY HIDE.
OH!
NO, UH...
IT WAS NOTHING, REALLY!
I GUESS EVEN AN OAF LIKE YOU IS GOOD FOR SOME-THING.
WASN'T IT YOUR FAULT IN THE FIRST PLACE?

NOCHTA THE ZELZAL,
SO!
SILVIE THE NAJM,
AND BICORN THE NAGI...
DO HUMBLY ACCEPT THEIR POSTS...
IN THE DJIBRIL OF PRINCE TWELVE, THE NEXT SUCCESSOR TO THE ORCHIS THRONE!
HUUUH ?!

TWELVE IS WITH THE BEDOUIN?
YES, SIR.
WELL, IT IS UNUSUAL, BUT...
IT WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM.
BUT HE TALKED OF TAKING THEM INTO HIS DJIBRIL...
DJIBRIL?
...I SEE BUT THAT IS IN NO WAY AGAINST THE LAW.

DJIBRIL REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE ROYAL FAMILY.
IT IS NOT AN ISSUE WE CAN POKE OUR NOSES INTO.
BUT, SIR...
IT IS THE DESIRE OF THE NEXT SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE.
LET US RESPECT HIS WISHES.
LETTING BEDOUIN INTO THE ROYAL GUARD?!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, TWELVE?!
I TOLD YOU...

FWIP
I HEARD THAT LEGALLY THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH IT AT ALL.
THIS ISN'T A PROBLEM OF LAW!
THIS IS CUSTOM!
BUT IN A FIGHT OF LAW VERSUS CUSTOM, LAW WINS EVERY TIME,
RIGHT, NOCHTA?
"CUSTOMS" ARE NO-THING BUT A FORM OF RITUALIZED BEHAVIOR.
THIS IS ABOUT KEEPING UP APPEAR-ANCES!
SURELY, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT!
PFFT!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, SEVEN?!
...NO-THING!

WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE CLOSING CEREMONIES FOR THE 24TH DESERT CONFERENCE.
I THOUGHT WE HAD A SHELTERED LITTLE "LORD ISA" ON OUR HANDS, BUT...
NOT BAD, TWELVE.
I NEVER EXPECTED HE WOULD DIG OUT THE IMPERIAL MAGNA CARTA...
MAYBE HE SHOWS A LITTLE PROMISE YET...

WE LOOK SO LAME LINED UP LIKE THIS...
SAYS THE GUY WHO JOINED AFTER ALL THAT COMPLAIN-ING...
I'M ONLY IN IT FOR THE MONEY!
YOU'RE PRETTY SHREWD YOURSELF, NOCHTY.
CAN'T WIN AGAINST MONEY AND POWER?
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE LIKES OF THAT.
...
JUST STAY CALM AND DO YOUR DUTY, MIKURA.
I'LL BE FINE, MOM.
NEXT, THE SHAMS WILL PERFORM THE CHANG-ING OF THE SEER.
BREAK A LEG.
LET'S GO, MIKURA.

THE PRESEN-TATION OF THE VEIL!
NOW, AT THE END OF THE 24TH DESERT CONFER-ENCE, HAVING SERVED FOR 12 MONTHS,
MADAM SAKURA WILL ENTRUST HER ROLE TO THE NEXT SUN MAIDEN.
NOW, TELL THEM WHAT YOU SEE WITH YOUR EYE OF FORESIGHT.
WHAT IS IT?

THE SKY IS BLACK AS PITCH.
HUH?
IT'S PITCH BLACK...
MIKURA!
AH!
WAIT!
WOOSH
?!
OH NO!

O ISA,
IT IS CLEAR TO MY EYES.
IF ISA BECOMES EMPEROR...
THE SKY WILL BE REDUCED TO DARKNESS.
MIKURA !!
WHAT DID SHE SAY?!
?!
!
AHH
FWIP

WHAT A DISASTER!
SHE'S ONLY A CHILD! HAVE MERCY!
YOU LITTLE FREAK! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT THE CROWN HAS DONE FOR YOU?!

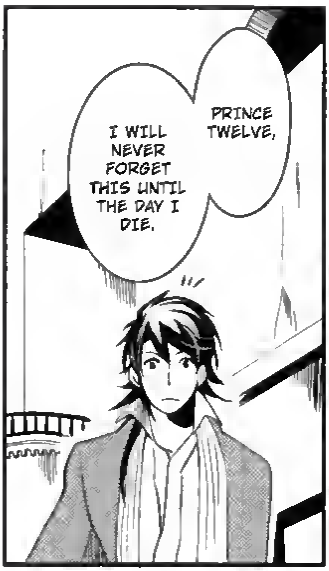
KILL HER.
WHOOMP
I SAID IT!!
...IT WAS ME!
THE GIRL IS ONLY REPEATING MY WORDS!
SAKURA!!
I AM THE ONE RESPONSIBLE! PLEASE PUNISH ME INSTEAD!

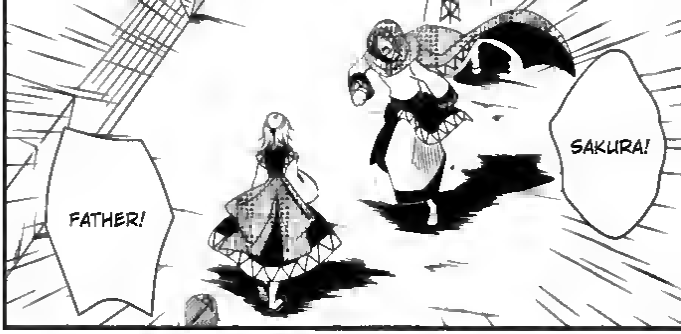
...AS YOU WISH.
WAIT.
PRINCE?!
INSULTING ISA IS A CRIME WORTHY OF DEATH.
IT IS TRULY UNFORTUNATE, BUT...
EVEN IF SHE IS YOUR BRIDE-TO-BE, SHE IS STILL ONLY A BEDOUIN.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND.

"BRIDE-TO-BE"?
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?
THAT WOMAN IS MY RETAINER.
THERE WILL BE NO INTERFERENCE IN MY AFFAIRS.
?!
TH-THAT'S INSANE !!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, PRINCE?!
SHE MUST BE PUNISHED !!
YES, SHE MUST PAY FOR HER SINS!

SAKURA THE SHAMS...
IS A MEMBER OF DJIBRIL.
AND DJIBRIL'S FAILINGS ARE MY RESPON-SIBILITY.
ALLOW ME TO APOLOGIZE, MISSMAR, YOUR GRACE.
I AM TERRIBLY SORRY.
WE WILL REHOLD THE CEREMONY AT A LATER DATE.

YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS.
!!
YOUR GRACE!
FLAP
LET US TAKE OUR LEAVE.
YOUR GRACE!
WAIT FOR US!


PRINCE TWELVE,
I WILL NEVER FORGET THIS UNTIL THE DAY I DIE.


FATHER!
SAKURA!

WE, THE SHAMS...

PLEDGE TO YOU
OUR ETERNAL LOYALTY.

HUH...
SO INSULTING ME GETS YOU THE DEATH PENALTY, EH?
I WONDER HOW MANY TIMES...
ELEVEN'S GONNA HAVE TO DIE?
FWIP
FWIP

FWIP

LIVE, MY SON.
AND NEVER LOSE HOPE.
ONE DAY, HE WILL RETURN... AND ONCE AGAIN BRING JOY TO THIS LAND...
EMIR...

UNFOR-
TUNATE.
YOUR
GRACE!
ARE YOU
SURE
THIS IS
WISE?!
IT IS
VERY...

...YOU WANT ME TO REMOVE SAKURA FROM THE LIST OF POTENTIAL BRIDES?!
THE INCIDENT WAS NOT AS BAD AS IT COULD HAVE BEEN
BUT WE STILL CAN'T LEAVE HER ON THE LIST.
OF COURSE.
I SEE.
PHEW
BUT THERE IS LITTLE TIME LEFT BEFORE "THE RITE OF BETROTHAL."
HE MUST DECIDE UPON THE PRINCE'S BRIDE.

SAKURA!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY!
DID YOU SEE THE LOOKS ON THE FACES OF THOSE ISAISTS?!
THAT'S WHAT THEY GET!
OH YEAH,
WHEN'D YOU JOIN DJIBRIL, SAKURA?
BEATS ME.
HUH ?!
SHE'S JOINING NOW.
AH HA HA!
YOU'VE GOT GUTS, PRINCE!
SURE DO.
THAT WAS QUICK THINK-ING!
TALK ABOUT DARING!

WE CAN FIX THE PAPER-WORK LATER.
YOU'RE IN THE ROYAL GUARDS NOW, SAKURA!
YOU SHOULDN'T FORGE PUBLIC RECORDS, PRINCE.
DON'T BE SUCH A STICKLER, NERD!
IF ISA BECOMES KING...
THE SKY WILL BE REDUCED TO DARKNESS.

CLOP
CLOP
THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE THE FIRST ISA AND IBLIS SETTLED THEIR BATTLE.
CREAK
THE BIRTH-PLACE OF ISAISM, "QADAR MALAK."
THIS, "THE STAGE OF SUCCESSION," IS ITS HIGHEST POINT.
THIS IS WHERE "THE RITE OF SUCCESSION" WILL BE HELD.

IS IT NOT A MAGNIFICENT VIEW?
YOU CAN SEE THE ENTIRE CAPITAL FROM HERE.
WHY DID YOU CALL ME TO THIS PLACE, YOUR GRACE?
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME HERE.
SOON, PRINCE TWELVE WILL BECOME RULER OF ALL THAT YOU SEE.
EVEN IF...
YOU WOULD MAKE A BETTER EMPEROR THAN HE EVER COULD.

...YOUR GRACE.
I WISH TO SAVE YOU, IBLIS.
NO.
PRINCE ELEVEN, THE NEXT SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE.

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER

IN HONOR OF THE FORMATION OF DJIBRIL
AND THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE DESERT CONFERENCE
CLINK
CHEERS !!
AHAHA! YOU'RE SUCH A BABY!
THIS ONE'S YOURS, NOCHTY.
ORANGE JUICE.
...
GASP!
YOU SMELL LIKE BEER!
CLINK
CLINK

WELCOME, TWELVE.
ONE OF MY HAUNTS? IT'S OWNED BY A FRIEND OF MINE.
IS THIS PLACE ONE OF YOUR HAUNTS, PRINCE?
ARE THEY YOUR FRIENDS?
YOU'VE GOT QUITE A GROUP WITH YOU TODAY.
YEP, THANKS AGAIN.
LOOKS LIKE THE TAVERN'S FINISHED.
WOW.
THEY'RE MY NEW ROYAL GUARDS.
HUH?!
IS SHE YOUR WOMAN, PRINCE?!
I KNOW WHAT THIS IS!
OH MAN! OH SNAP!

OF COURSE NOT!
WE'RE JUST FRIENDS.
A COOL BEAUTY!
MASTER ELEVEN?

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR PRINCE TWELVE, HE JUST LEFT WITH HIS ROYAL GUARDS.
WITH DJIBRIL?
YES, HE JUST FORMED THEM.
HUH... I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS.
YOU DIDN'T?
I WAS SURE HE ALREADY TOLD YOU ABOUT IT.
DID YOU NEED SOMETHING, PRINCE ELEVEN?

NO.
IT'S NOTHING MAJOR.
I SEE.
I'M SORRY. MASTER NINE NEEDS ME...
OH, THEN I'M SORRY I HELD YOU UP.

CHAPTER 10: ASYMMETRY

LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN DUMPED.
IT IS STILL TOO SOON TO GIVE AN ANSWER.
THE SIBLING BOND IS BUT A FRAGILE ONE.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT THING?
SNATCH
WOOSH
SIBLING BONDS, EH?
OVER-LORDS HAVE A LOT ON THEIR PLATES.
HONEST-LY...
MANKIND HAS MADE ABSOLUTELY NO PROGRESS SINCE THE TIME OF MYTH.

DOESN'T WATCHING THOSE TWO KINDA PISS YOU OFF?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN, THEY'RE GETTING NOWHERE.

IT LOOKS LIKE THE PRINCE HAS FEELINGS FOR THAT GIRL, BUT...
RIGHT ?!
HE SHOULD JUST JUMP RIGHT ON IT, RIGHT?! GO FOR THE GOLD!

PLAN 1: OH, STRONG MEN ARE SO WONDERFUL.
I THINK WE SHOULD MIND OUR OWN BUSI-NESS...
DIDN'T YOU GET REJECTED BY THE SAME WOMAN 100 TIMES?
97 TIMES !!
WOMEN ARE WEAK FOR A MAN'S MAN.
SOMEONE WHO CAN PROTECT THEM WHEN TROUBLE COMES KNOCKING!
YOU JUST LEAVE THIS ONE TO ME!

OUR ADVENTURE COULD BEGIN WITH A SINGLE CUP
TA-DAH!
HEY THERE, MISSY.
WHY DON'T YOU DITCH THE LOSER AND JOIN ME FOR TEA?!
WHAT? YOU GOT A PROBLEM, PUNK?!

...BICORN?
HOW DID HE KNOW?!
DID YOU THINK THAT WAS A GOOD DISGUISE?
BRAINS AREN'T HIS BEST POINT.
PLAN 2: BOURGEOIS MEN ARE WONDERFUL.
GIRLS LOVE PRESENTS!
THERE ISN'T ANY-ONE WHO DOESN'T LIKE GETTING A GIFT!
WHAT KIND OF GIFT?

IT'S SILK!
HEY, QUIT IT!
OW!
OW!
YOU'RE QUITE THE CYNIC, HUH, NOCHTY?
ROMANCE IS NOTHING BUT A GLORIFIED GAME OF HOUSE...
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S MY TURN.
NO, NO, NO, NO!
ITS TRUE GOAL IS...
INTER-COURSE.

REJECTED! YOUR PLAN IS REJECTED!
WE CAN USE THIS APHRODISIAC TO FORCE HER TO...
PLAN 3: FERTILE MEN ARE WONDERFUL.
IT'S A SPECIAL ZELZAL FORMULA.
SO LET'S MAKE THAT A REALITY.
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THOSE WORDS MEAN?!
SORRY, PRINCE! IT'S NOTHING, REALLY!
?
I THINK THEY JUST NEED SOME KIND OF STARTING POINT.
WHY DON'T WE JUST GET THEM ALONE TOGETHER?
WHAT A BORING GUY...
IT'S DEFINITELY THE SAFEST CHOICE.
YEAH, THAT'S THE SAFE CHOICE.
THAT IS THE SAFE CHOICE.
FALCONRY?

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME, PRINCE?
YEAH, BUT IT SOUNDS FUN!
YES.
I THINK WE CAN CATCH RABBITS AROUND HERE.
HORREYA!
SWOOP...
THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL FALCON.
IS IT YOURS?
WELL, TECHNICALLY, SHE'S MY BROTHER'S BIRD.
YEP.
HER NAME IS HORREYA.

"FREEDOM," HUH?
THAT'S A NICE NAME.
...NOW THAT'S A SURPRISE.
?
OH.
SHE USUALLY DOESN'T LIKE ANYONE BUT ME AND MY BROTHER
OH, A RABBIT!
WHOOMP
HORREYA!

SCHK
FALCONS ARE AWE-SOME!
...
WOW!
OHH!
OH!
HEY, HORREYA!
HORREYA!
GET BACK HERE!
SORRY, WE'LL GO BRING HER BACK!

YEAH.
THEY SURE ARE TAKING THEIR SWEET TIME, HUH?
O-OH, IT'S NO-THING!
HUH?
?
THOSE BASTARDS! DON'T TELL ME THEY...
GASP
WHAT IS THAT?
WOOSH
HEY!
HMM?
THIS WIND...
YOU THINK THIS IS GONNA WORK?
IT'S ALL UP TO THEM NOW.

A SAND-STORM?!

WHY NOW?!
PRINCE!
PRINCE!

WOOOOOSH
ビョオオ
WOOSH
ビュー
I'M GLAD WE FOUND THIS CAVE, BUT...
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S GONNA DIE DOWN ANYTIME SOON.
THIS WIND IS AWFUL!
WOOSH
ビュー
WOOSH
ビュー
GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT IT OUT IN HERE...
KOYUKI?

PAT
SCRATCH

I DIDN'T WANT TO BE ALONE.

...WHEN I WAS A CHILD...

THERE WAS A SANDSTORM LIKE THIS WHEN MY PARENTS DIED.

I WAS SO SCARED...
AND LONELY...
AND WORRIED...

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE ELEVEN AND I ARE SEPARATED FOR GOOD.
AT SOME POINT, YOU HAVE TO STAND ON YOUR OWN TWO FEET.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO LIVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE ALONE.
YOU CAN ALWAYS MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

AND I'M...
UH...
ONE OF THOSE FRIENDS.
THANK YOU.

ISN'T THE MOON BEAUTIFUL?
...IF YOU'RE FEELING LONELY...
WE COULD...
HOLD HANDS.

W-
WE DON'T HAVE TO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO!
PERI
YOU'RE A VERY DEPENDABLE FRIEND.

PRINCE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
WE WERE FREAK-ED!
I'M SORRY WE PUT YOU IN DANGER...
DJIBRIL!
MISS KOYUKI!
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...
GRIND
GRIND
OW, OW, OW!
DON'T GET ANY MORE FUNNY IDEAS!

UWHAT ?!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT WAS.
DON'T LOOK AT ME! IT WAS HIS IDEA!
HEY!
ALL OF YOU ARE AT FAULT HERE!
WE SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH MY IDEA.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOURS WAS ANY BETTER!
ONLY BECAUSE YOU GUYS DIDN'T HAVE ANY DECENT IDEAS!
NO WAY IN HELL.
ARE YOU PICKING A FIGHT WITH THE ZELZAL TRIBE?
YOUR PLAN WAS A LOT MORE DANGER-OUS, NOCHTY!
YOU NEED TO SHOW MORE CONCERN FOR THE PRINCE'S SAFETY.
AS PUNISHMENT, YOU WILL SERVE ME FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES!
STARTING TOMORROW, I'M GONNA RUN YOU RAGGED.

CRACK
HEY.
I WANT TO GET STRONGER.
RIGHT NOW, THIS COUNTRY IS BUILT UPON
THE SACRIFICES OF ELEVEN AND THE BEDOUIN.

WE'LL THROW OUT TRADITION...
AND CREATE A COUNTRY WHERE EVERYONE CAN BE FREE...
...BUT IF I BECOME EMPEROR, I CAN CHANGE THAT.
EVERYTHING STARTS THEN.
I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT HAPPEN.

HE'S GOTTEN MUCH MORE DEPENDABLE LATELY, HASN'T HE?
MAYBE HE'S FINALLY READY TO LEAVE THE NEST?
DO YOU THINK HE'S FINALLY REALIZED WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE SUCCESSOR?

PREPARATIONS ON THE ISAIST END ARE PROGRESSING WITHOUT DELAY.
BUT ONE MONTH REMAINS UNTIL "THE RITE OF SUCCESSION."
OH, NOT AT ALL.
I AM ONLY GETTING AN OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION.
I'M SURE DJIBRIL CANNOT WAIT FOR "THE RITE OF SUCCESSION" EITHER.
FROM YOU, PRINCE TWELVE, WE NEED...
NO PROBLEMS ON MY END.
DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS?
NOW, ABOUT HOW WE WILL DEAL WITH IBLIS AFTER THE RITE...
ABOUT THAT...
I'VE ALREADY GIVEN MY CONSENT.

"IBLIS" IS ABSOLUTE EVIL.
THAT IS WHAT PROTECTS THE ISAIST DOCTRINE IN PRESENT DAY ORCHIS.
THUS, THAT IS WHAT PROTECTS THIS COUNTRY.
I AM NOW CONFIDENT THAT EVEN WITHOUT PRINCE ELEVEN'S ASSIS-TANCE,
YOU ARE MORE THAN PREPARED TO TAKE THE CROWN.
EXCEL-LENT, PRINCE TWELVE.
YOU'VE GROWN INTO A FINE YOUNG MAN.
THOSE ARE *YOUR* THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER, CORRECT, MISSMAR?

I'VE MADE MY DECISION.
OF COURSE.
I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE.
I WILL WALK MY OWN PATH.
I CANNOT WAIT TO SEE YOU TAKE THE THRONE.

AND I WAS GONNA TELL HIM ABOUT MY IDEA...
HUH?
ELEVEN!

...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
THAT ONE'S "ISA," ISN'T HE?!
...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
OH, DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF.
I KNEW IT THE MINUTE I SAW HIM! IT WAS LIKE LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!
...ANYWAY, I'LL FINISH PREPARATIONS ON MY END.
THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NEAR.
I KNOW! I KNOW!
OUR MISSION IS THE ABDUCTION OF OUR TRUE KING, "EMIR."

WE WILL ONLY GET ONE CHANCE:
"THE RITE OF SUCCESSION."
OH, LUTEEN?
WELCOME.
YUAN ISN'T WITH YOU TODAY?
TELL HER NOT TO BREAK THE TAVERN AGAIN.
MISS KOYUKI SAKAGAMI.

WE HAVE COME TO PICK YOU UP...
PRINCESS.

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER

THEY NEED ME AT THE TAVERN!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! WHY ME?!
JEEZ!
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?!
THUD
IN ONE WEEK, FOR "THE RITE OF SUCCESSION,"
YOU WILL BE SPENDING THE NIGHT WITH PRINCE TWELVE.
IS THIS SOME-ONE'S IDEA OF A JOKE?!

PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR ROOM, MADAM KOYUKI.
?
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON HERE, TWELVE?!

CHAPTER 11: ELEVEN

WHAT DO YOU MEAN I CAN'T SEE TWELVE?!
AS I SAID BEFORE,
NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO SEE THE PRINCE UNTIL AFTER "THE RITE OF SUCCESSION."
SQUUUEEEEZE
THOSE ARE THE RULES.
YOU USELESS NINCOM-POOP!
AND I WANNA KNOW WHY THAT IS,
I'M THE CONSUL.
I'M ONLY FOLLOWING THE ROYAL FAMILY'S ORDERS.
GIVE IT A REST, YUAN.
AND WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, LUTEEN?!

BUT, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE MISS KOYUKI WAS CHOSEN.
HEY, LUTEEN! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
WHAT DO THEY INTEND TO DO WITH HER?
I CAN ONLY THINK THAT THEY INTEND TO USE HER FOR SOME PURPOSE OF THEIR OWN...
I'M NOT GONNA RELY ON YOU ANY-MORE!
FINE!
YUAN!
ZOOM

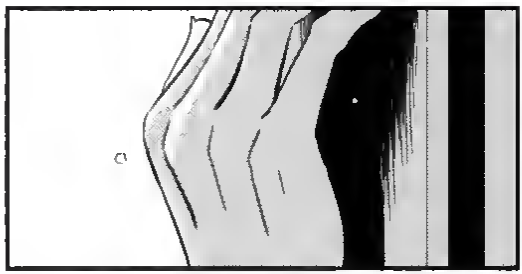
HEY.
WHAT DID THE HIGH PRIEST SAY TO YOU?

NO-THING MUCH.
YANK

I CANNOT DIVULGE THAT INFORMATION TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT OF ROYAL BLOOD.
HA!
THAT'S FUNNY TO HEAR FROM THE GUY WHO ISN'T EVEN HUMAN...
(IBLIS) "DEMON-SPAWN."
HEH
FROM THIS ANGLE, YOU REALLY DO LOOK LIKE A WOMAN.
NO...
STOP IT...

KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK IT OFF, ELEVEN.
KOYUKI IS MY FIANCE?!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
IT WAS THE HIGH PRIEST'S RECOMMENDATION.
MISS-MAR?!

YOU WILL REFRAIN FROM MAKING ANY MORE UNNECESSARY TRIPS OUTSIDE THE PALACE WALLS..
"THE RITE OF SUCCESSION" WILL BE HELD IN ONE WEEK.
WE CANNOT ALLOW RELATIONS WITH THE CHURCH TO DETERIORATE ANY FURTHER.
I DON'T NEED YOUR GUARDS!
I'LL GO WITH DJIBRIL!
WE WILL ACCOMPANY YOU ON TOMORROW'S "RITE OF THE OATH" AND THE VISIT TO YOUR MOTHER'S GRAVE.
WHA?!
DJIBRIL HAS BEEN DISBANDED.
UNLESS YOU WANT TO MAKE THINGS HARDER FOR MISS KOYUKI...
YOU WILL DO AS THE HIGH PRIEST SAYS.
THINK



TWELVE.
ELEVEN?

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT. THERE ARE GUARDS EVERY-WHERE.
DAMN IT!

BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
GET ME OUT OF HERE!

TO-
MORROW...
THE DAY
OF MOTHER'S
DEATH...
I HAVE
SOMETHING
IMPORTANT
TO TELL YOU.
OKAY...
TOMORROW
I HAVE TO
SEE FATHER
FOR "THE
RITE OF
THE OATH."
WE CAN
MEET AT
MOTHER'S
GRAVE
AFTER
THAT.
PERFECT.
YOU'D
BETTER BE
THERE.

DON'T FORGET.
IT'S A PROMISE, TWELVE.

ALL RIGHT, IT'S A PROMISE.

SO I DOUBT HE WILL HEAR YOU...
ALTHOUGH FATHER HAS BEEN ASLEEP FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS...
AS I EXPLAINED BEFORE,
YOU ARE TO HOLD THE SWORD BEFORE YOU AND SWEAR THE OATH
PLEASE CALL ME ONCE YOU FINISH.
I, TWELVE HEALD KHAN ORCHIS,
SCHK

THE TWELFTH SUCCESSOR TO THE ORCHIS THRONE,
DO SWEAR TO MY FORE-FATHER ISA
AND THE IMPERIAL SWORD TAWHID TO...
ELEVEN...

GRAB
SOME-ONE... !!
FATHER ?!
ELEVEN...
YOU MUSTN'T USE THAT SWORD.
YOUR MOTHER...
EMPRESS THAMANYA WAS...
ポゥ
GLOW

MURDERED BY THE ISAISTS.
DON'T TRUST THEM...
FATHER?
FATHER!

BY THE ISAISTS?

WHY WOULD THE ISAISTS KILL THE EMPRESS?

MOTHER WAS ASSAS-SINATED?

IT WAS THE HIGH PRIEST'S RECOMMEN-DATION.

THE EM-PRESS...

KOYUKI'S IN DANGER?!
WHAM
?!

YUAN?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I AM SO SORRY
SHH! YOU'LL ATTRACT MORE GUARDS!
KEEP WATCH OUT FRONT, BLOCK-HEAD!
TWIST
WHY ARE YOU TWELVE'S FIANCE?!
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!

AND THEY WON'T EVEN TAKE THESE OFF...
THEY DRAGGED ME HERE WITH NO EXPLANATION...
YOU WANT TO GO HOME?
OF COURSE I DO!
TWELVE HASN'T TOLD ME ANYTHING...
WELL, I GUESS I'LL HELP YOU OUT THEN.
YOUR FUTURE IS SOMETHING TO BE TAKEN WITH YOUR OWN HANDS!

PRINCE!
PRINCE!
PRINCE!
PRINCE!
WOOSH
YOU CANNOT SEE YOUR FIANCE!
YOU SHALL NOT PASS BEYOND THIS POINT.
PRINCE!
YOU'RE A VERY DEPENDABLE FRIEND.

GET OUT OF MY WAY.

KH!
HEY! THIS IS DANGER-OUS!
WHOA! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE GOT A THE CHOICE! OTHER SIDE'S CRAWLING WITH GUARDS!
KOYUKI !!
SLIP

KOYUKI !!
SPLASH
STOMP
PRINCE !!
KO-YU-KI !!

KOYUKI!
PRINCE!
WHAT ARE YOU THINK-ING?!
SPLOOSH
OH...

DRIP
DRIP
MOTHER...
Thamanya=Khan
Orchis

WAS I NOT...

WANTED WHEN I WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD?

HATED AND DESPISED AS THE DEVIL.

ALLOWED TO LIVE ONLY IN ORDER...

I WAS BORN ALONE IN THIS HELL,
FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF BEING ERASED.
TWELVE, MY ONE AND ONLY TWIN BROTHER.
BUT YOU GAVE ME A REASON TO LIVE.
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE I COULD TRUST.
MISS KOYUKI !!
KOYUKI ?!
COUGH

KEEP THAT PROMISE.

THANK GOOD-NESS!
THANK GOOD-NESS YOU'RE ALIVE!
TWELVE...
IF THAT IS THE CASE...

WILL BECOME IBLIS, JUST AS FATE DEMANDS.

THEN I...

RUMBLE RUMBLE
ゴロ
ゴロッ
FLASH
I HAVE BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL,
PRINCE ELEVEN.

...I...
WANT YOU.
PLEASE...
LEAD US...
MISSMAR?
DO YOU NEED ME...
THE ONE TRUE ISA.

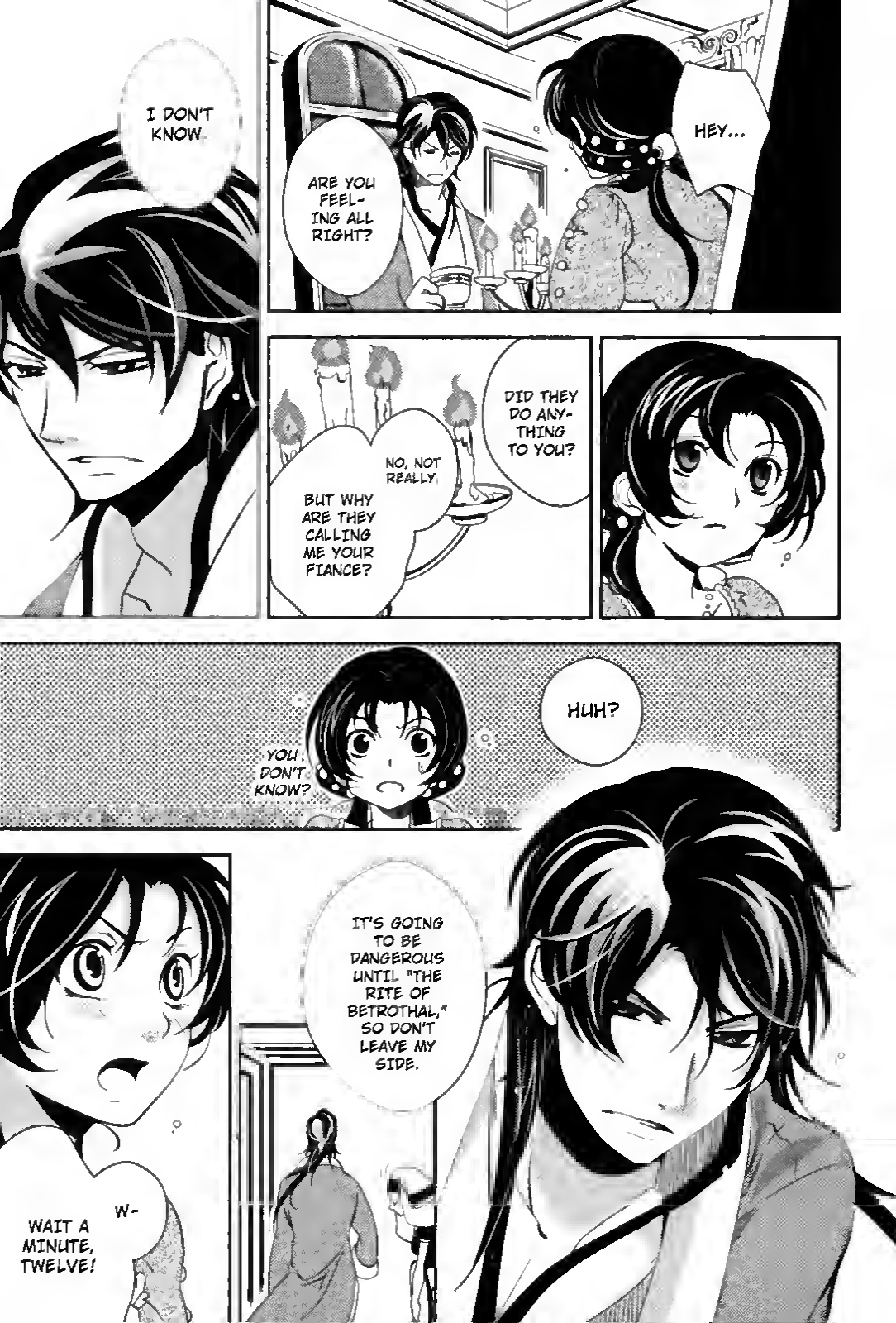
THE TWELVE HOUR RULER

CHAPTER 12: TWELVE

THEY REALLY PUT ME THROUGH THE WRINGER.
PRINCE.
I AM TERRIBLY SORRY, SIRE.
IF WE DON'T, TWELVE MAY PUT HIMSELF IN DANGER AGAIN.
...WE WILL TAKE THE SPECIAL PRECAUTION OF KEEPING TWELVE AND MISS KOYUKI IN THE SERAGLIO UNTIL "THE RITE OF BETROTHAL."
...
IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT YOU FAIL, HADEED.
I WAS MISTAKEN ABOUT PRINCE TWELVE.
I KNEW HE WAS A HIGHLY SKILLED INDIVIDUAL, BUT...
TWELVE HAS CHANGED.

HE USED TO BE SO SELFISH...
BUT NOT ANYMORE.

TWELVE.
TWELVE...
UM...
THANKS FOR THE OTHER DAY.


I DON'T KNOW.
ARE YOU FEEL-ING ALL RIGHT?
HEY...
DID THEY DO ANY-THING TO YOU?
NO, NOT REALLY.
BUT WHY ARE THEY CALLING ME YOUR FIANCE?
HUH?
YOU DON'T KNOW?
IT'S GOING TO BE DANGEROUS UNTIL "THE RITE OF BETROTHAL," SO DON'T LEAVE MY SIDE.
W-
WAIT A MINUTE, TWELVE!

IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK.
I AM THE HEAD CARETAKER OF THE SERGALIO, FANAR.
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?!
MADAM KOYUKI.
I AM SURE THE PRINCE IS ONLY BEING BASHFUL.
WE DIDN'T SHARE ANY-THING!
THAT WAS TOTALLY INVOL-UNTARY!
...AFTER THE PASSIONATE KISS THE TWO OF YOU SHARED YESTERDAY.
!
THANK GOOD-NESS.
YES, MA'AM.
SECONDS, PLEASE.

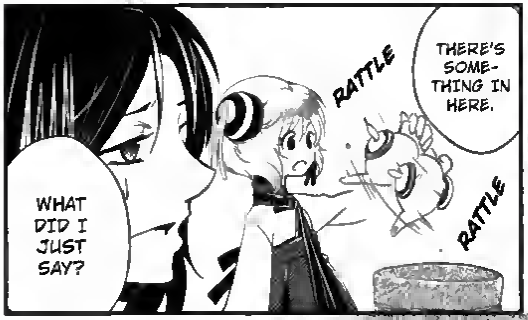
MURDERED BY THE ISAISTS.
EMPRESS THAMANYA WAS...
I CAN'T PUT KOYUKI IN ANY MORE DANGER.
AFTER THOSE WORDS, FATHER ONCE AGAIN FELL INTO HIS LONG SLEEP...
I MUST NOT TELL ANYONE WHAT HE SAID.
I MUST LEARN THE TRUTH BEHIND MOTHER'S DEATH.
IF WHAT HE SAID IS TRUE...
THEN WHAT IS THE ISAISTS' GOAL?
BUT I NEED SOME SORT OF PROOF.

THERE HAS TO BE SOME WAY TO...
AND DJIBRIL'S GONE...
BUT I'M UNDER CONSTANT WATCH...
HORREYA!
WHOOMP
...IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

I DOUBT THAT'S THE CASE.
YOU WERE TRYING TO HELP MISS KOYUKI, WEREN'T YOU?
I'M THE ONE WHO PUT KOYUKI IN DANGER...
I'LL BET TWELVE'S MAD AT ME...
I CAN'T BE SATISFIED WITH THAT!
THEN WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?
...WELL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, LUTEEN?
I'M ONLY HERE TO SEE PRINCE ELEVEN.
Uhhh...
"THE RITE OF SUCCESSION" WILL TAKE PLACE SOON AFTER "THE RITE OF BETROTHAL."
THIS MAY BE THE LAST CHANCE I GET TO PAY HIM A FRIENDLY VISIT.
PRINCE ELEVEN?

KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HIS THINGS, YUAN.

LOOKS LIKE HE ISN'T HERE.


THERE'S SOME-THING IN HERE.
RATTLE
RATTLE
WHAT DID I JUST SAY?

A SILVER BULLET ?!
RATTLE
?!

GASP
FOR "THE RITE OF SUCCESSION," YOU WILL BE SPENDING THE NIGHT WITH PRINCE TWELVE.
HUH?
WHERE IS THIS?
IT'S DANGEROUS, SO DON'T LEAVE MY SIDE.
JERK
カリタ
THUNK

I JUST GOT A LITTLE LOST!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

FANAR WILL BE HERE SOON, SO JUST WAIT FOR HER.
DESPITE EVERY-THING, IT FEELS LIKE HE'S ALWAYS SAVING ME...
I WONDER IF POPS AND EVERY-ONE ARE DOING OKAY...
IT'S FUNNY... I'M SEPARATED FROM EVERY-ONE, BUT I'M NOT VERY LONELY. IT MUST BE BECAUSE...
ZZooo
DON'T TELL ME I'M

CREAK

WH-WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS THAT?!
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

PECK
WHAT ?!
EEK!
EEK!
PECK
WHAT IS IT ?!
A LETTER ?
WHO IS IT FROM?
IF ISA BECOMES EMPEROR, THE SKY WILL BE REDUCED TO DARKNESS.
HORREYA?
NO, IT CAN'T BE!
SAKURA?

CHIEF ACAL!
HMM?
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW...
ABOUT THE TRUTH BEHIND EMPRESS THAMANYA'S DEATH...
WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
TO WHAT DO I OWE THE HONOR, MADAM SAKURA?
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT.
I KNEW IT WASN'T GOOD NEWS THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE.

HIM, EH?
MY FATHER TOLD ME YOU WERE INVESTIGATING THE DEATH OF THE EMPRESS.
STOP THAT!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A PROUD BEDOUIN...
I DO THIS OUT OF PRIDE!
WHUMP
PLEASE! I'M BEGGING YOU!
I WILL DO ANYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP!
I WILL GLADLY RISK THAT LIFE TO REPAY HIS KINDNESS!
EMIR SAVED MY LIFE!

VERY WELL.
IT'S FOR EMIR, EH?
I WILL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW.
THERE IS ONE THING I'M CERTAIN OF...
THE TRUE CULPRITS BEHIND THE EMPRESS'S DEATH...
ARE THE ISAISTS.

...BUT, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, HE ISN'T THE ONE WHO KILLED THE EMPRESS.
UNDER ORDERS OF THE HIGH PRIEST, I PURSUED AN ASSASSIN, AN ANKABUT.
I WANT TO CLEAR HIS NAME.
HE WAS SIMPLY FRAMED FOR MURDER AND TARGETED BY THE ISAISTS FOR EXECUTION.
THAT IS WHY I SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH.

AND THE FOOD HERE IS GREAT... AFTER SEEING THE KIND OF LIFE HE'S LIVED...
WHAT A GARDEN...
...
TWELVE...
I CAN SEE HOW TWELVE TURNED OUT SO SELF-ISH...
BLUSH!
WAAAAAFT
WH-WHAT IS IT?!
T-TWELVE!!
WHAP WHAP
WHAP WHAP
KOYUKI.

KOYUKI.
YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
HUH?
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, TWELVE?
YANK

HEY!
ぎゅう
SQUEEZE

I DON'T WANT TO DRAG YOU INTO THIS.
I CALLED SOME TRUSTED FRIENDS TO HELP YOU ESCAPE.
YOU AREN'T SAFE IN THE PALACE.
YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE "THE RITE OF BETROTHAL."
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
I WANT YOU TO GET AS FAR AWAY FROM HERE AS YOU CAN.

THIS WAY, MISS.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

YOU IDIOT.
STOP WORRYING ABOUT OTHERS ALL THE TIME.
YOU'RE WAY TOO WEAK FOR THAT.

MADAM KOYUKI?
PLEASE, WE MUST HURRY.
THAT STUPID PRINCE!
WHO DOES HE THINK HE'S CALLING AN IDIOT?!
AND AFTER WHAT HE DID WHEN I WAS ASLEEP...
WHY CAN'T I WORRY ABOUT HIM TOO?!
WHO'S THE ONE ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE...
IDIOT?!
I-IDIOT?
MADAM KOYUKI!

HUFF.
HUFF
TWELVE!

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER (3) END

SERIALIZED IN
'NEXTCOMIC FIRST'
APR. 2011 - AUG. 2011

CAPTAIN HADEED'S
PRIVATE TIME
...

FWIP
PRINCE EIGHT.
PFFT!
?
I THINK I'VE FOUND MY NEW PARTY TRICK.
CAPTAIN HADEED IS PASSIONATE ABOUT HIS WORK.

AFTERWORD

PLEASE SEND YOUR
THOUGHTS TO:
NEXT@OHZORA.CO.JP

: SPECIAL THANKS :
MIYA / YAMINOTSUKASA / MAO RYUKI / MIDORI / SAE / TAMAGO
DOLL WORKER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT / FUNCZION SOUNDS
WITH MARICA / TEAM ONOZUKA / 01882
MY EDITOR, MY FAMILY, AND EVERYONE ELSE

Next f

12時の権力者

3

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